

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An arc discharge lamp comprising:
an arc chamber;
an amalgam tip attached to and communicating with said arc chamber through a
constricted area;
an amalgam retainer in said arc chamber abutted against said constricted area, said
10 amalgam retainer being vibration-insensitive, solid and liquid amalgam impervious and
mercury vapor pervious; and
an amalgam contained within said amalgam tip.
- 15 2. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 1 wherein said amalgam retainer comprises a
ceramic felt.
3. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 2 wherein said ceramic felt is comprised of fibers of
mixed aluminum and silicon oxides.
- 20 4. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 3 wherein said fibers have a diameter of <10
microns.
5. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 4 wherein said lamp is a low pressure discharge
lamp.
- 25 6. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 5 wherein said amalgam includes bismuth and
indium.
7. The arc discharge lamp of Claim 5 wherein said amalgam tip has a given diameter
30 and said amalgam retainer, prior to insertion, has a larger diameter.